

believe that States, if they choose, should be able to consider the associated benefits of small renewable power and set higher prices, when the market demands such action and when the benefits outweigh the costs.

I urge my colleagues to review and ultimately to support this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1233

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “PURPA’s Legislative Upgrade to State Authority Act” or “PURPA PLUS Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) section 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 824a–3)—

(A) established a new class of nonutility generators known as “qualifying cogeneration facilities” and “qualifying small power production facilities”; and

(B) encouraged the development of alternate sources of energy with the requirement that utilities purchase energy offered by qualifying facilities;

(2) since the date of enactment of that section, materials and designs for qualifying facility technologies have advanced and placed renewable resources and cogeneration facilities within the reach of more consumers, including technologies such as—

(A) solar photovoltaic panels;

(B) small wind turbines;

(C) storage technologies to support renewable energy;

(D) small hydroelectric generators on existing dams, diversions, and conduits;

(E) hydrokinetic generators;

(F) gas microturbines;

(G) steam-cycle turbines;

(H) Stirling engines;

(I) fuel cells; and

(J) biomass boilers;

(3) States need additional regulatory flexibility and authority to be able to incentivize the qualifying facilities; and

(4) the avoided cost caps on qualifying facilities should be removed so that States can set the rates for qualifying facilities of not more than 2 megawatts capacity.

SEC. 3. STATE AUTHORITY TO INCENTIVIZE QUALIFYING FACILITIES.

Section 210(b) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 824a–3(b)) is amended in the last sentence by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, except that the rule shall provide that a State regulatory authority or non-regulated electric utility, acting under State authority, may set rates that exceed the incremental cost of alternative electric energy for purchases from any qualifying cogeneration facility or qualifying small power production facility of not more than 2 megawatts capacity”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 170—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK AND HONORING THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM TO THE UNITED STATES

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REID, Mr. WARNER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HELLER, Mr. KING, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. THUNE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 170

Whereas National Travel and Tourism Week was established in 1983 through the enactment of the Joint Resolution entitled “Joint Resolution to designate the week beginning May 27, 1984, as ‘National Tourism Week’”, approved November 29, 1983 (Public Law 98–178; 97 Stat. 1126), which recognized the value of travel and tourism;

Whereas National Travel and Tourism Week is celebrated across the United States from May 2 through May 10, 2015;

Whereas more than 120 travel destinations throughout the United States are holding events in honor of National Travel and Tourism Week;

Whereas 1 out of every 9 jobs in the United States depends on travel and tourism, and the industry supports 15,000,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas the travel and tourism industry employs individuals in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and all the territories of the United States;

Whereas international travel to the United States is the single largest export industry in the country, generating a trade surplus balance of approximately \$74,000,000,000;

Whereas the travel and tourism industry, Congress, and the President have worked to streamline the visa process and make the United States welcoming to visitors from other countries;

Whereas travel and tourism provide significant economic benefits to the United States by generating nearly \$2,100,000,000,000 in annual economic output;

Whereas leisure travel allows individuals to experience the rich cultural heritage and educational opportunities of the United States and its communities; and

Whereas the immense value of travel and tourism cannot be overstated: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Travel and Tourism Week;

(2) commends the travel and tourism industry for its important contributions to the United States; and

(3) commends the employees of the travel and tourism industry for their important contributions to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 171—CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND ADMINISTRATORS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR MAKING ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION, AND SUPPORTING THE IDEALS AND GOALS OF THE 16TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK, TO BE HELD MAY 3 THROUGH MAY 9, 2015

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KIRK, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. VITTER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 171

Whereas charter schools are public schools that do not charge tuition and enroll any student who wants to attend, often through a random lottery when the demand for enrollment is outmatched by the supply of available charter school seats;

Whereas high-performing public charter schools deliver a high-quality public education and challenge all students to reach the students’ potential for academic success;

Whereas public charter schools promote innovation and excellence in public education;

Whereas public charter schools throughout the United States provide millions of families with diverse and innovative educational options for children of the families;

Whereas high-performing public charter schools and charter management organizations are increasing student achievement and attendance rates at institutions of higher education;

Whereas public charter schools are authorized by a designated entity and—

(1) respond to the needs of communities, families, and students in the United States; and

(2) promote the principles of quality, accountability, choice, high-performance, and innovation;

Whereas, in exchange for flexibility and autonomy, public charter schools are held accountable by the authorizers of the charter schools for improving student achievement and for sound financial and operational management;

Whereas public charter schools are required to meet the student achievement accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) in the same manner as traditional public schools;

Whereas public charter schools often set higher expectations for students, beyond the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), to ensure that the charter schools are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas 43 States and the District of Columbia have enacted laws authorizing public charter schools;

Whereas, as of the 2014–2015 school year, more than 6,700 public charter schools served more than 2,900,000 children;

Whereas in the United States—

(1) in 150 school districts, more than 10 percent of public school students are enrolled in public charter schools; and

(2) in 12 school districts, at least 30 percent of public school students are enrolled in public charter schools;